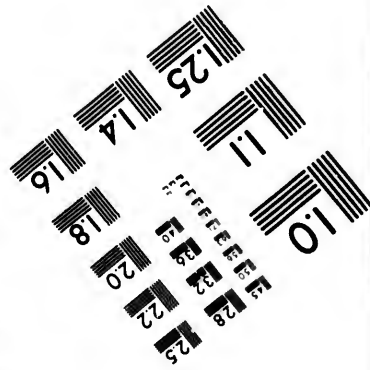
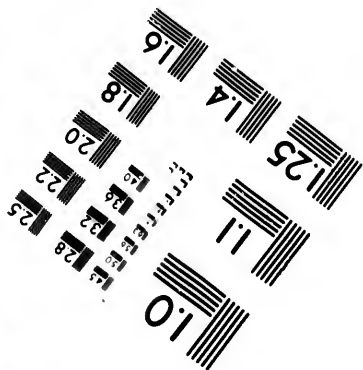
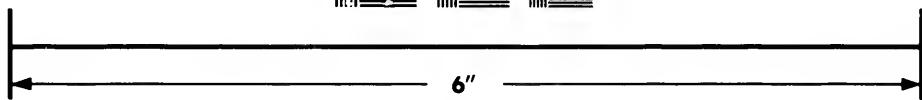
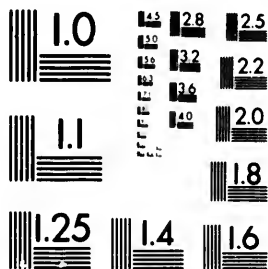


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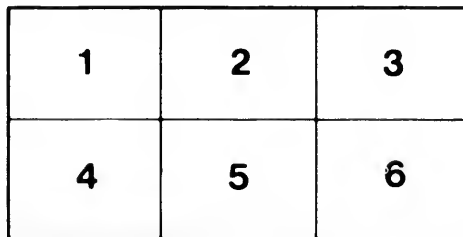
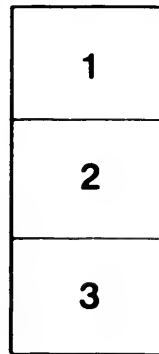
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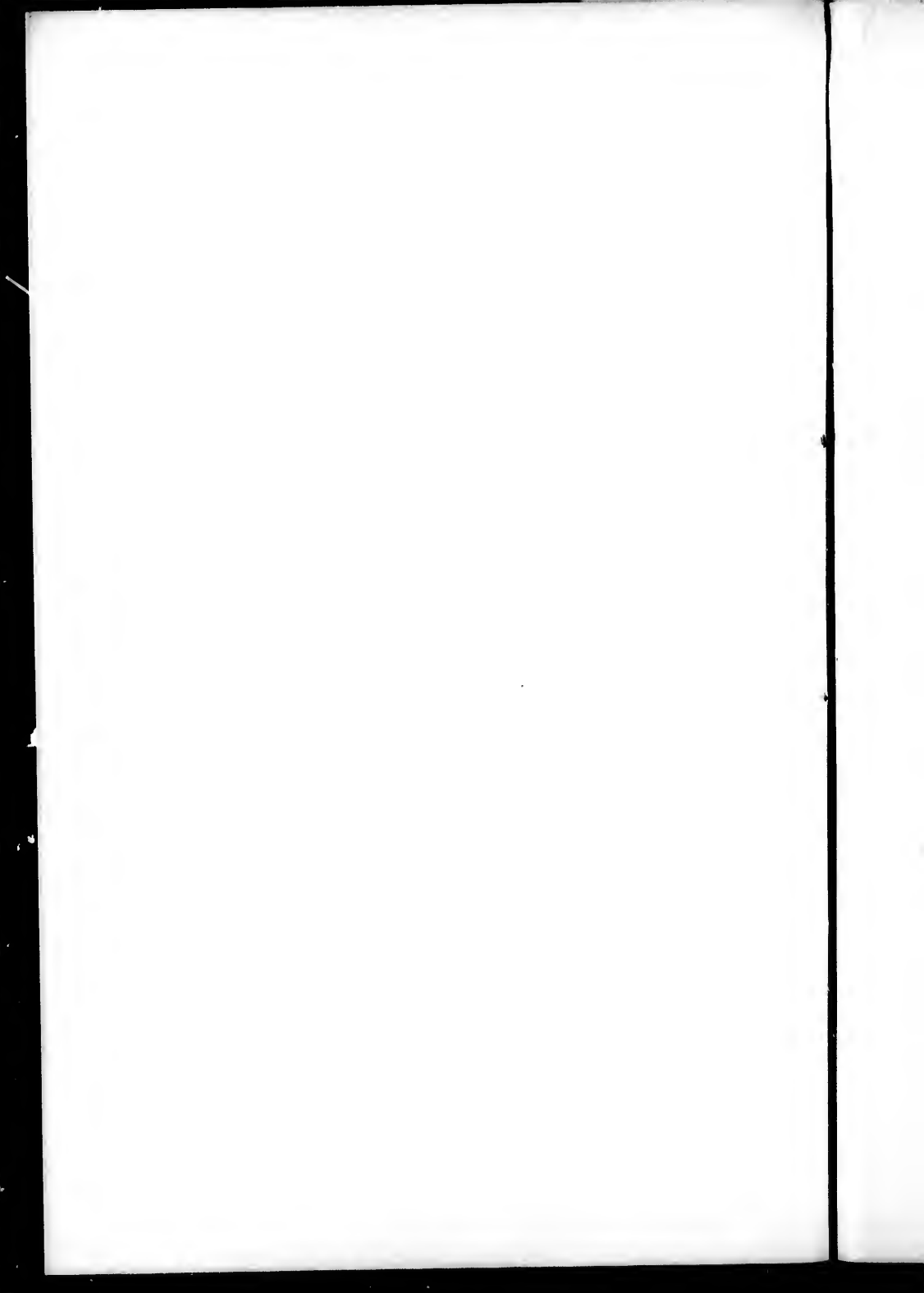
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**CONFIDENTIAL.**

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**PART VIII.**

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**FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

RESPECTING THE

BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE BRITISH POSSESSIONS IN  
NORTH AMERICA

AND THE

**TERRITORY OF ALASKA.**

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1896.

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Further Correspondence respecting the Boundary between the  
British Possessions in North America and the Territory  
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PART VII.]

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No. 1.

*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 7.)*

Sir, *Downing Street, January 7, 1896.*  
IN reply to your letter of the 1st instant, forwarding copies of a communication from Mr. Alexander Begg respecting the boundary between British Columbia and Alaska, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acquaint you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, that copies of these papers have already been received from Mr. Begg by this Department, and have been forwarded to the Dominion Government.

I am accordingly to suggest that Mr. Begg should be informed that this has been done, and that any further communication on the question should be addressed direct to the Canadian Government, as all measures connected with the delimitation of the boundary are being conducted by them.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

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No. 2.

*Foreign Office to Colonial Institute.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, January 10, 1896.*  
I HAVE laid your letter and its inclosures relating to the boundary between British Columbia and Alaska before the Marquess of Salisbury.

His Lordship learns from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, to whom your communication has been referred, that copies of the documents which accompanied it have already been forwarded to the Canadian Government.

In these circumstances, whilst thanking you for the information contained in your letter, I am directed by Lord Salisbury to suggest that any further communication which you may desire to make on the matter should be addressed to the Canadian Government, as all measures connected with the delimitation of the Alaska boundary are being conducted by them.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.



No. 3.

*Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 16.)*

(No. 8.)

My Lord,

Washington, January 7, 1896.

With reference to my despatch No. 273 and to previous correspondence relative to the proposed delimitation of a certain portion of the boundary between Alaska and Canada, where that boundary is formed by the 141st meridian of longitude, I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of a speech delivered in the Senate on the 3rd instant by Mr. Squire, Senator from California, introducing a Resolution for the appropriation of a sum of 75,000 dollars to the expenses of the survey.

Your Lordship will observe that the Resolution contemplates a joint survey by an International Commission, as proposed by Lord Gough as the preferable alternative in his note to the United States' Government of the 20th August last, although the United States' Government have not as yet formally signified their agreement to that proposal.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

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Inclosure in No. 3.

*Extract from the "Congressional Record" of January 3, 1896.*

*The Alaskan Boundary.*

*Mr. Squire.*—I introduce a Joint Resolution, and ask that it be read at length.

The Joint Resolution (S. R. 39), making an appropriation to defray the joint expense of locating the boundary-line between the Territory of Alaska and the British North American territory, was read the first time by its title and the second time at length, as follows:—

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that in view of the expediency of forthwith negotiating a Convention with Great Britain for marking convenient points upon the 141st meridian of west longitude, where it forms, under existing Treaty provisions, the boundary-line between the Territory of Alaska and the British North American territory, and to enable the President to execute the provisions of such Convention without delay, when concluded, the sum of 75,000 dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be immediately available, under the direction of the President, to defray the share of the United States in the joint expense of locating said meridian and marking said boundary by an International Commission."

*Mr. Squire.*—Mr. President, I will state, in explanation of the Joint Resolution, that the people of the Pacific Coast desire a speedy settlement of the boundary question in Alaska. I have had representations made to me on that subject of the most urgent character. People whose homes are in the State of Washington are engaged in mining in the Territory of Alaska. They are engaged in transporting supplies for their subsistence while conducting their operations in mining. Others are engaged in trading as merchants between the ports on Puget Sound and the ports of Alaska.

From a Report published by the Coast Survey in 1893 I quote the following extracts, as showing the extent and importance of this great territory:—

"It is regrettable that our sources of information for late Alaskan statistics are confined to the brief summaries of the Governor's Reports, and that for a comprehensive study of all the wealth-producing industries of the territory, we have to go to the publications of the Census for 1890.

"The extraordinary growth of this but partially-explored territory, with its valuable resources on land and the almost limitless wealth in its waters, demands greater attention than has heretofore been accorded it, and makes imperative that general and comprehensive aids to its navigation and commerce be supplied.

"This vast region contains about 600,000 square miles, being about twelve and a-half times the area of the State of New York. It has approximately 26,000 miles of shore line, which exceeds that of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts of the United States by over 11,200 miles, while the islands along its coast are estimated to be 1,100 in number. A course parallel with the trend of its shore from Cape Muzon, its most southerly point, to Point Barrow, its most northerly one, is about 2,800 miles. The Aleutian chain of islands is about 1,100 miles long, and Attu, the most westerly one of this group, is about 2,200 miles west of Sitka.

"There are immense forests in Alaska, densely covering every part of the country, and climbing steep mountain sides to heights of 2,000 and 2,500 feet above sea level, and which extend as far west as Kadik Island, being a continuous stretch of 1,000 miles.

"They consist mainly of spruce, hemlock, and cedar, one variety of the latter, the yellow, being very valuable in the construction of small vessels on account of its durable qualities.

"The commerce of Alaska is and doubtless always will be carried on by water, owing to the peculiar formation of the country; and being so varied and largely conducted by non-residents and by vessels sailing from so many different ports, it is difficult to obtain an exact idea of its extent. The internal commerce is carried on through about 126 agencies, located in 104 towns and settlements, situated along its coast and among its islands.

"The exports consist mainly of furs, ivory, Indian curios, gold and silver bullion and ore, and the products of the whale, cod, and salmon fisheries.

"During the earlier occupancy of the country its commerce depended almost exclusively on the fur trade, but since other industries dependent upon the actual necessities of man sprang up this important factor, although of great value, has already fallen to a third place in importance. From 1868 to 1891 the total value of the furs exported is estimated at 50,124,500 dollars, and the annual yield for the last-mentioned year amounted to about 1,605,000 dollars.

"In 1892 there were sixteen gold and silver mines in operation, and up to that date the total output amounted to about 6,000,000 dollars. The traffic dependent upon the necessities of the small army already engaged in this comparatively new enterprise is considerable, and will undoubtedly increase.

"The salmon industry commenced in 1878, and from that date up to 1890 the pack had amounted to 9,612,000 dollars. In 1878 the entire product was valued at 59,416 dollars, while that of 1890 was 2,731,000 dollars. The salmon-canning industry of this country is confined to the waters of California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. In years past the Columbia River has been the principal source of supply, but the run in all the sections south of British Columbia has become smaller from year to year. In the year 1887 the total pack for the entire Pacific Coast was 969,200 cases, of which the Columbia River furnished 430,000. In 1890 the output of the western coast was about 1,223,955 cases, of which Alaska alone furnished 688,322, or more than half the entire product of the United States. The capital invested in the Alaska salmon fisheries, including permanent improvements, vessels, &c., is something more than 4,000,000 dollars. There were, in 1890, thirty-seven canneries between Dixon Entrance and Bristol Bay, twenty-five of which are west of Sitka, and about 6,000 persons were employed during the fishing season, using sixty-six vessels for the purpose.

"Judging from the rate of increase during the past ten years and the enormous field yet to be developed, the commerce depending upon this single industry will be one of the most notable interests of the Pacific Coast. Three-fourths of it is now beyond the region reconnoitred, and is rapidly crowding northward into unchartered localities enormously rich in fish. It is interesting to note that the two newer industries, mining and salmon fishing, have grown so rapidly that while in 1880 both these industries were insignificant and completely overshadowed by the fur trade, by 1890 their products amounted in value to 15,000,000 dollars, or more than twice the purchase price of the territory.

"The Pacific and Arctic whaling catch, though not confined strictly to Alaskan waters, is conducted by American vessels, and all but a very small percentage of it is secured in waters contiguous to the Alaskan coast. The total value of oil, bone, and ivory of the catch between 1874 and 1890 was 11,204,465 dollars. There are about fifty vessels engaged in this industry, their port of call being Port Clarence. The charts of the tracts and rendezvous of these vessels are simply compilations of early explorations, and are very crude and inaccurate.

"Of the food fish of Alaska the cod-fish stand next in commercial importance to the

# History of Alaska - The Square

salmon. The eastern part of Behring Sea is a great reservoir of cod, and the area within the limits of 50 fathoms depth is no less than 18,000 square miles. In this sea fishing must be done as it is off Newfoundland, without harbours of refuge, but in a much less depth of water. The fishing banks along the south shores of the Aleutian chain will add about 45,000 more square miles, making a total of 63,000 square miles, this being about four times the area of the banks in the region of Newfoundland. Though over twenty years have elapsed since the inception of this industry, it must still be considered in its infancy. The value of the catch during the last twenty-seven years has amounted to about 8,900,000 dollars. It is carried on without regard to the abundant supply, but solely in accordance with the demands of the local and limited market on the Pacific Coast of America.

"It is evident, with the numerous trans-continental railways and with the increasing population along their lines and growing tributaries, that the demand will constantly and permanently increase, so that this interest will alone crowd the waters of the Gulf of Alaska and Behring Sea with sails."

In this Report too much stress is not laid on the importance of the fishing industry alone, and this will be appreciated if we reflect that a great historical fact has been epitomized in the statement that "Amsterdam is built on herring bones."

Sundry questions have arisen to cause grave solicitude and anxiety on the subject of the boundary-line. It has even been intimated to me that there is a strong probability that some conflict or strife may take place between the miners I have referred to or the others who are engaged in taking in supplies and those who would collect duties from them on the frontier.

Mr. President, I believe that this question is an important one; even more important, perhaps, than the decision of the Venezuelan boundary, because this question relates to the boundaries of our own country. It relates to peace between our own citizens and the citizens of the adjoining British possessions. In my judgment, it is the duty of this Congress to facilitate in every proper way the adjustment of the question relating to this boundary-line.

It may be appropriate to give here a brief sketch of the history of the boundary survey. In 1872 General Grant, then President of the United States, anticipating that a postponement of the definite marking of the boundary might involve future disputes, recommended in his Annual Message the creation of a Commission for settling the boundary-line. But the matter was allowed to drop, and nothing was done until President Cleveland, about fifteen years later, again brought the subject forward by a reference to it in his Message.

In 1887 the Department of State inserted an item of 100,000 dollars in the Estimates for a preliminary survey of the boundary, but on this item no action was taken.

In 1888, however, an appropriation of 20,000 dollars was made for a preliminary survey, to be conducted by the Coast and Geodetic Survey in accordance with projects to be approved by the Secretary of State. Under this Act, two parties were organized in the spring of 1889 to ascend the Yukon and its affluent, the Porcupine, to determine by astronomical observations the intersection of the 141st meridian with these rivers. The party on the Porcupine accomplished its purpose during the following winter, while the party on the Yukon was compelled by adverse circumstances to spend two winters there.

Small appropriations were annually made under the same wording as the Act of the 2nd October, 1888, referred to above, until the year 1892, when a Convention was concluded at Washington, on the 22nd July, 1892, for conducting a coincident or joint survey, "with a view to the ascertainment of the facts and data necessary to the permanent delimitation of said boundary-line," that is, from latitude  $54^{\circ} 40'$  north to the point where it encounters the 141st meridian west of Greenwich.

Under this Convention, Commissioners were appointed by the Governments of the United States and Great Britain respectively.

It was prescribed that the Commissioners should complete their duties within two years from the date of their first meeting, but as this was found impracticable the time was extended to the 31st December, 1895, by Supplementary Convention of the 3rd February, 1894.

The total amount appropriated under this Convention was 60,000 dollars, and the surveys were conducted on behalf of the United States under the direction of the Superintendents of the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

The Alaskan boundary is conveniently divisible into two sections: the first where it follows the contour of the coast from the southernmost point of Prince of Wales Island

until it strikes the 141st meridian at or near the summit of Mount St. Elias; the second where it is formed by the 141st meridian, which it follows from that intersecting point to the frozen ocean.

The determination of the exact limits of the first coastwise section is in progress, or has been in progress until recently, through a preliminary survey by American and British expeditions acting separately or coincidentally, as convenience might dictate, under the provisions of the Convention of the 22nd July, 1809, and the Supplementary Convention of the 3rd February, 1894, between the United States and Great Britain. The object of this preliminary survey has been to obtain for the information of their respective Governments affirmative data from which they may by Conventional Agreement determine the true boundary described in the Anglo-Russian Treaty of 1825, and redescribed in the 1st Article of the Treaty between the United States and Russia of March 1867, whereby the Russian Territory of Alaska was ceded to this country.

As before stated, this preliminary examination had been taking place until the 31st day of December, 1895, to which date it was extended by Supplementary Convention of the 3rd February, 1894. It seems that, referring to the President's Message, a further extension of time will be necessary, as well as an additional appropriation, for the completion of this work.

It has been erroneously stated in the public prints, as I am informed upon good authority, that some Agreement has been signed by the respective Commissioners in the past few days. This seems to be a misapprehension. These Commissioners were not created for the purpose of coming to any agreement. They had no power relative to coming to any such agreement so as to bind their Governments. They were simply to examine and report for the information of their respective Governments, and to furnish the necessary data to afford the basis for a Treaty between the United States and Great Britain relative to the south-eastern boundary of Alaska. I doubt not there should be an appropriation for the continuation of the work of the Commission, and I believe it is expected that the present Commission will be continued by a Convention between the two Governments extending the term of its existence and its labours.

As the Alaskan Coast is steadily becoming settled, and an extensive development of interests of great magnitude is taking place, it seems needful that provision be made for the settlement of both these boundary questions. The second question, and the one to which the Joint Resolution refers more particularly, is in relation to the 141st meridian. It seems, as to this, that all the preliminaries are completed, so that a Conventional Agreement can now be made between the United States and Great Britain. The theoretical existence of this boundary on the 141st meridian is an undoubted fact, and is not at all in question, but the physical location of the boundary-line remains to be established. I am informed by those who have given this subject great attention that the ascertainment of a given meridian at any given point is a work depending upon the precision of the scientific instruments employed and the accuracy of the astronomical and geodetic observation, so that it needs much time and care to reduce the remaining amount of error to so small a degree that it will be practically immaterial and of no consequence. Such observations and surveys were undertaken by the United States' Coast and Geodetic Survey in 1890 and 1891, and the same where the 141st meridian crosses the Yukon River, also where it intersects Forty-Mile Creek, and again where it passes by the summit of Mount St. Elias, have been marked with some degree of accuracy. Similar surveys in some quarters under British auspices are believed to give nearly coincident results. I am informed that there is a difference of perhaps not more than 450 feet between the location by the respective Governments on the Yukon River where that is intersected by the 141st meridian, and that there is but a slight difference at the intersection of the meridian with what is known as Forty-Mile Creek, where active mining operations are conducted.

It seems to be practicable to reach an agreement along this line, inasmuch as the difference is so slight.

These surveys by the respective Governments have been independently conducted, and no international agreement has yet been made to mark those or any other parts of the 141st meridian by permanent monuments.

The going in of the miners and the development of the country has been such that the valley of the Yukon is becoming a highway through the hitherto unexplored wilds of Alaska.

This region has great mineral resources recently discovered, especially at or near the junction of the boundary meridian of the Yukon and its tributaries. What is known as the Porcupine River is another of the tributaries upon which surveys have been made. The outposts of civilization and enterprise are springing up, and under these

circumstances it seems exceedingly important, and, indeed, necessary, that the jurisdictional limits of the respective Governments in this new region should be determined. It is understood that Her Britannic Majesty's Government has already proposed a joint delimitation of the 141st meridian by an international Commission of experts, and if Congress should create this Commission, and make provision therefor, the necessary result can be accomplished with no unreasonable delay by means of the Convention which is contemplated to that end.

I fear that there has been at times a degree of indistinctness in the conception of my fellow citizens in regard to the Alaskan boundary question. There has been a mixing of the two separate and distinct questions, the one relating to the 141st meridian, and the other relating to the line starting from the southernmost end of Prince of Wales Island, and following along the contour of the coast. I mean the mainland at a distance of not more than 30 geographical miles from the ocean. There has been a degree of uncertainty and confusion in the public mind on this subject—a commingling of the questions. They are easily separated. The question that is dealt with in the Joint Resolution I have introduced this morning relates solely to the boundary-line along the 141st meridian. As to the other question, I understand that the examination which has been made by the Commission in reference to south-eastern Alaska is purely preliminary, and relates principally to the character and description of the region.

The people of the city in which I reside have recently forwarded to me a very carefully prepared Report, going into the history of this whole Alaskan boundary question. It shows the interest of my people in this question. It has been prepared with much care and research. I deem it to be of great value and interest at the present time when this subject is so prominent in the public mind. I believe there is one error in the paper toward the close, in which it is stated that it is understood that the Reports provided for by the Convention referred to "have been submitted to the respective Governments and await further action, in pursuance of the terms of the Convention of 1892 and the Supplemental Convention of 1894." The Report of the Commission may have been presented to the Canadian Government, but I have to-day learned that it has not yet been presented to the Government of the United States, and, as I before stated, this Report can only present data for the information of the respective Governments, upon which, when the entire examination shall be completed, the two nations may be duly advised, so as to enable them more intelligently to enter into a Treaty. With the exception of this paragraph, I believe the representations set forth in the following Report are mainly correct. I ask that the Report which was made by a Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of Seattle be appended and made part of my remarks.

The *Vice-President*.—It will be so ordered without objection.

The paper referred to is as follows:—

*Alaskan Boundary: Supplemental Report.*

To the Board of Trustees,  
Chamber of Commerce, Seattle, Washington:

Gentlemen,

Since the Report submitted to your honourable body under date of the 1st April, 1895, the Committee has pursued its search for further information which would tend to assist the Government of the United States to firmly maintain the integrity of our Alaskan possessions. The boundary-line of the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada dividing the Territory of Alaska from the Province of British Columbia and the north-west territory of Canada has, by reason of its extraordinary length, developed two subjects for investigation, which may be pursued and determined separately, while the permanent delimitation of the entire boundary involves the satisfactory settlement of each. The one comprehends the physical location of the 141st meridian as produced northwardly from Mount St. Elias to the frozen ocean.

The controversy over the above-mentioned part of the boundary has, by the separate efforts of the Governments of the United States and Canada, been brought more nearly to a determination than that over south-eastern Alaska, and which, it appears to the Committee, will be attended with more vexatious incidents. This Report, therefore, is submitted in support of the eastern boundary of the strip which begins south of Mount St. Elias and runs south-easterly as far as Portland Channel, and which boundary it is emphatically contended has been conceded by Canada for more than sixty years, and certainly, as far as the investigation of the Committee has extended, has never been questioned by that Government until comparatively a recent date.

It is necessary, for a clear understanding of the points at issue, to carefully peruse the description of the boundary-line as expressly defined in Article I of the Convention concluded the 30th March, 1867, between the United States of America and Russia. The line of demarcation as set forth therein is as follows:—

#### “ARTICLE I.

“His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias agrees to cede to the United States, by this Convention, immediately upon the exchange of the ratifications thereof, all the territory and dominion now possessed by his said Majesty on the Continent of America and in the adjacent islands, the same being contained within the geographical limits herein set forth, to wit: The eastern limit is the line of demarcation between the Russian and the British possessions in North America as established by the Convention between Russia and Great Britain of the 16th (28th) February, 1825, and described in Articles III and IV of said Convention in the following terms:

“Commencing from the southernmost point of the island called Prince of Wales Island, which point lies in the parallel of  $54^{\circ} 40'$  north latitude, and between the 131st and the 133rd degree of west longitude (meridian of Greenwich), the said line shall ascend to the north along the channel called Portland Channel as far as the point of the Continent where it strikes the 56th degree of north latitude; from this last-mentioned point the line of demarcation shall follow the summit of the mountains situated parallel to the coast as far as the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude (of the same meridian); and, finally, from the said point of intersection, the said meridian line of the 141st degree, in its prolongation as far as the frozen ocean.

“4. With reference to the line of demarcation laid down in the preceding Article, it is understood—

“1. That the island called Prince of Wales Island shall belong wholly to Russia (now, by this cession, to the United States).

“2. That whenever the summit of the mountains which extend in a direction parallel to the coast from the 56th degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude shall prove to be at a distance of more than 10 marine leagues from the ocean, the limit between the British possessions and the line of coast which is to belong to Russia as above mentioned (that is to say, the limit to the possessions ceded by this Convention) shall be formed by a line parallel to the winding of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of 10 marine leagues therefrom.”—(“United States' Statutes at Large,” vol. xv, pp. 539, 540.)

The wording of the description of the boundary-line, as above given, is identical with that contained in the Convention between Russia and Great Britain of the 16th (28th) February, 1825, in Articles III and IV thereof, save the following words “(now, by this cession to the United States),” which occurs in the first paragraph of Article IV above.

The diplomatic language used in the Russian-English Convention of 1825 is here given, in order that the accuracy of the translation may be compared, and is as follows:—

#### “ARTICLE III.

“La ligne de démarcation entre les possessions des Hautes Parties Contractantes sur la côte du continent et les îles de l'Amérique nord-ouest, sera tracée ainsi qu'il suit:

“A partir du point le plus méridional de l'île dite Prince of Wales, lequel point se trouve sous la parallèle du  $54^{\circ} 40'$  de latitude nord, et entre le  $131^{\circ}$  et le  $133^{\circ}$  de longitude ouest (méridien de Greenwich). La dite ligne remontera au nord le long de la passe dite Portland Channel, jusqu'au point de la terre ferme où elle atteint le  $56^{\circ}$  latitude nord; de ce dernier point, la ligne de démarcation suivra la crête des montagnes situés parallèlement à la côte, jusqu'au point d'intersection du  $141^{\circ}$  de longitude ouest (même méridien); et, finalement, du dit point d'intersection la même ligne méridienne du  $141^{\circ}$  formera dans son prolongement jusqu'à la Mer Glaciale la limite entre les possessions Russes et Britanniques sur le continent de l'Amérique nord-ouest.”

Seattle Chamber of Commerce  
Canadian Claims -  
Mr. Squier's speech  
"ARTICLE IV.

"Il est entendu, par rapport à la ligne de démarcation déterminée dans l'Article précédent :

- "1. Que l'île dite Prince of Wales appartiendra tout entière à la Russie.
- "2. Que partout où la crête des montagnes qui s'étendent dans une direction parallèle à la côte depuis le 56° de latitude nord au point d'intersection du 141° de longitude ouest, se trouverait à la distance de plus de 10 lieues marines de l'océan, la limite entre les possessions Britanniques et la lisière de côte mentionnée ci-dessus comme devant appartenir à la Russie, sera formée par une ligne parallèle aux sinuosités de la côte et qui ne pourra jamais en être éloignée que de 10 lieues marines."

The subject of the controversy between Russia and Great Britain which culminated in the Convention of 1825, above referred to, was the celebrated Ukase of the 4th September, 1821, issued by the Emperor Alexander, and which prohibited foreign vessels not only from landing upon the coasts and islands of the north-west belonging to Russia, but also the coast and islands of Siberia, or to approach them in less than 100 Italian miles. It was intended to protect all commerce, whaling, and fishery at such places from foreign competition, as an exclusive franchise, in all such industries at such places, was thereby granted to Russian subjects.

Mention is here made of this Ukase because of the diplomatic correspondence which ensued and was carried on for several years between the British and Russian Governments, in which the settlement of this identical boundary-line was the most prominent subject of the controversy.

Throughout this most interesting correspondence the intent of the High Contracting Parties is clearly and unmistakably laid bare as to the physical location of the eastern boundary of the Alaskan strip, and, when read together with the description set forth above, annihilates the pretensions of Canada to any of the canals, bays, or inlets to which claims are now being set up.

The alleged claims of the Dominion of Canada to portions of the Alaskan strip arises, first, from the strained construction given to the description of the boundary-line as hereinabove set forth; and, second, from a real or pretended belief in the existence of a fact which is emphatically controverted by the engineers of the United States.

#### Canadian Claims.

The Parliamentary papers and the leading journals of the Dominion of Canada, and particularly of the Province of British Columbia, vigorously contend, in support of the construction referred to—

1. That "Behm Canal," and not "Portland Canal," is the channel intended through which the boundary-line commencing at the southernmost portion of Prince of Wales Island "shall ascend to the north . . . . as far as the point of the continent where it strikes the 56th degree of north latitude."

2. That the eastern boundary-line, in its extension from the point where it strikes the 56th degree of north latitude, shall follow an alleged range of mountains, arbitrarily crossing and cutting off the heads of bays and inlets the ownership of which by the United States has hitherto been unquestioned.

3. That the said eastern boundary-line is not a line following the sinuosities of the coast, and giving to the terms "windings of the coast" an interpretation which concedes to British Columbia not only parts of the inland waters, but a large area of the most valuable portions of the coast-line strip known as south-eastern Alaska.

4. That neither Portland nor Behm Canal was named when the British-Russian Convention of 1825 was acted upon.

That these, among other points inimical to the proprietorship of the United States, are vigorously contended for by the press of Canada, and are supported by semi-official utterances, may be safely inferred from the following facts:—

Twenty of the mounted police of the Dominion of Canada passed through the city of Seattle last July to enforce Customs Regulations of that Government in Alaska.

Mr. William Ogilvie, the well-known Canadian surveyor, and who had charge, in

part, of the corps of engineers engaged in the "joint or coincident survey" hereinafter spoken of, is quoted as to the boundary-line through "Portland Canal" as follows: "This, by the way . . . . is objected to by the Province of British Columbia, and with reason, for in strict conformity with the wording of the Article of the Treaty a northerly line from the southernmost point of Prince of Wales Island would never reach Portland Canal at all, but would go up the channel known as Behm Canal."

Provincial Premier Turner (Province of British Columbia), in a recently published interview, says: "From what I learned during my stay in England, it is plain to me that if something is not done immediately this country (Canada) runs a great risk of losing for ever a great and valuable block of territory that was stipulated as being part of British America at the time of the enactment of the British-Russian Treaty of 185. The Americans have quietly issued maps in which this territory, in reality belonging to Canada as much as historic Quebec, is represented as forming part of Alaska, and, sorry to say, some of our own map-makers have fallen into the snare, and, taking it for granted that the American claim is a valid one, have 'corrected' Canadian maps accordingly."

The very latest official map of the Province of British Columbia, issued under Governmental authority, and purporting to be compiled under direction of Hon. G. B. Martin, Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works at Victoria, British Columbia, shows the boundary-line as proceeding up through Behm Canal, and, further, places in British Columbia the heads of the most valuable bays and inlets, and an area of valuable territory heretofore regarded as and tacitly conceded by Canada to be the possessions of the United States, a part of which has been the subject of recent special legislation by our Federal Government.

The Committee has earnestly and diligently endeavoured to ascertain upon what sound reasoning these pretensions are founded, and in what manner the Dominion of Canada can logically establish its claim to this rich territory, as said claim is manifested by official maps and the foregoing assertions.

An exhaustive examination of the evidence that is material or relevant, which the Committee has been able to obtain, leads to the conclusion that these claims, with the exception hereinafter mentioned, are founded on neither fact nor reason, and that the controversy, when once clearly understood, will be in a great measure stripped of its perplexities. The exception referred to is whether or not there exists a range of mountains "which extend in a direction parallel to the coast, from the 56th degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude," within the 10 marine league limit.

To set forth *in extenso* the evidence which in the judgment of the Committee would establish the conclusion that the Canadian claims are untenable would demand a report of too great length, and a reference to the same will be sufficient to invite the confidence of the Chamber in its reliability:—

1. In the first place, the charts and maps of both Governments, for near a quarter of a century, show the boundary-line is drawn thereon to follow the sinuosities of the coast, equidistant therefrom, beginning at the head of Portland Canal, and reaching to Mount St. Elias; and that this line, so drawn, has been recognized by the civilized world from 1825 to about 1884, and has been so recognized by British Columbia on the official maps of that Government as late as the date last mentioned.

2. That this line was so recognized at the time Alaska was purchased by the United States from Russia in 1867, and United States' troops were soon thereafter stationed at Fort Tongass, at the mouth of Portland Canal, and United States' Customs officials maintained at said point as late as 1889, meeting with no protest from the Canadian Government or other Powers of the world.

3. That Behm Canal and Portland Canal were both well known at the time of the Convention of 1825 between Great Britain and Russia, and that Portland Canal was so named by that eminent British navigator, Captain George Vancouver, in 1793, and was one of the subjects of diplomatic correspondence between England and Russia for several years immediately preceding the Convention of 1825.

4. That for many years prior to the purchase of Alaska by the United States, that powerful English commercial institution, the Hudson Bay Fur Company, paid the Russian Government an annual stipend for the privilege of trading in the very inlets that the Dominion of Canada now claims; that the compact between that Company and the first-named Government it is believed can be found among the Russian archives.

5. That if written evidence of such a compact cannot be found, there are now



living witnesses who can testify that the Hudson Bay Company paid the annual compensation referred to as late as the year 1857, as the following letters from the Rev. William Duncan and the Indian Secretary of the Metlakahla Indians will show :—

*On board "City of Topeka," Alaskan Waters,  
May 3, 1895.*

Before leaving home for a trip to Sitka I received a letter from Mr. Miner Bruce, the explorer, asking me to write you any particulars I might happen to know regarding the question of the boundary between Alaska and British Columbia. Most likely the little information I have on the subject is already known to you, but it can do no harm to write what I know :—

1. In 1837 I was located at Fort Simpson, and was in constant daily intercourse with the affairs of the Hudson Bay Company, who had a monopoly of the country at that time. From this intercourse I learned that all the country north of Portland Canal belonged to Russia, and for the privilege of trading with the Indians from that point, and as far as Chileat, the Hudson Bay Company paid a rent to the Russian Government of 1,000 otter skins each year. It is not at all likely that a Company of such proportions as the Hudson Bay Company would consent to pay rent for territory of which there was uncertainty as to ownership. That Company would most assuredly be well acquainted with the maps which assigned the territory to Russia, or it would have never made the agreement with Russia which it did. Nor did those officers during all the years I was in daily intercourse with them ever hint at a doubt as to the boundary from which Russian claims started.

2. I have known law-breakers to escape to Tongass from justice, being, while there, out of the jurisdiction of British Columbia.

3. When the United States purchased Alaska a corps of soldiers was stationed at Tongass, and continued there for years in undisputed control.

4. On my migrating with over 800 Indians from British Columbia in 1887, we had to call at Fort Tongass and give an account of our belongings. I paid the Customs officers over 1,000 dollars to bring my goods into Alaska. The Customs authorities resided at Tongass, just over the inlet called Portland Canal.

Yours truly,  
(Signed) Wm. DUNCAN.

J. B. Metcalfe, Esq.,  
Seattle, Washington.

Dear Sir,

*Metlakahla, Alaska, May 31, 1895.*

Since the report reached us of the controversy which is going on between Canada and the United States concerning the boundary-line between British Columbia and Alaska, we have met to discuss the matter.

The information which we have to offer on the subject is :—

1. When we left our old home in British Columbia we were regarded as foreigners by the Canadian authorities.

2. In the summer of 1887, when we migrated to Alaska, Fort Tongass, just over Portland Inlet, was a port of entry. We had to pay duty to a Custom-house officer residing there on all dutiable articles we brought over to this country.

3. We employed three small steamers to convey over our belongings, one of which the Custom-house officer at Port Simpson tried to detain as coming from a foreign country. We had to receive our clearance papers at Port Simpson before coming over to Alaska.

4. Having got over to Annette Island, the Canadian Indian agent at Metlakahla, British Columbia, ceased to have any control over us, which would not have been the case (such was the animus of the man) if the boundary-line had been doubtful.

We remain, &c.  
(Signed) The People of Metlakahla, Alaska  
(D. LEASK, Secretary).

J. B. Metcalfe, Esq.,  
Seattle, Washington.

6. That the Rev. Mr. Duncan, having become engaged in a controversy with his religious superiors set out to overlook his charge of the Metlakahla Indians, appealed to the Congress of the United States for a haven for himself and his 800 Indians away

from their control or molestation, and that by an Act of Congress approved the 3rd March, 1891 (Chapter 561, Section 15, "United States' Statutes at Large," vol. xxvi, p. 1101), Annette Island was set aside for his use. The new Metlakahila is now a thriving community, with churches and schools, and self-sustaining industries carried on by these Indians, and that Canada had not at that time announced the present claim or any claim to this island.

7. That it can be shown that the process of the British Columbia Courts were never attempted to be served on the north side of Portland Canal on offenders against British Columbia laws.

8. That it is conceded by the press, and also officials of British Columbia, that some one has blundered, and that the official maps of that province, recognized by Canada, have to be "corrected," and say that "the Dominion officials have followed, sheep-like, in the track of the United States' diplomatists. Luckily their stupidity in lazily copying the blunder of the public servants of the United States did not legalize what is manifestly an error. It is not too late to correct the mistake that has been made." The utterance of Premier Turner is to the same effect. "The Canadians will have to repudiate some of their own maps."

The foregoing references are made to show that the facts therein set forth reasonably constitute a tacit admission by Canada of the proprietorship of the United States in the now contested territory, since during all the time mentioned the open and well-known possession thereof and the exercise of Governmental control over the same by the United States has never been, until recently, assailed nor questioned.

#### *Construction of the Convention of 1825.*

The Committee has heretofore alluded to what appears to be an illogical construction given to the terms of Articles III and IV of the Convention of 1825, which are identical with those of Article I of the Convention of 1867, wherein the description of the boundary-line is recited. A careful perusal of the description fixes the initial point at Cape Chacon at the southernmost point of Prince of Wales Island. The first call of the description then reads: "The said line shall ascend to the north along the channel called Portland Channel, as far as the point of the Continent where it strikes the 56th degree of north latitude."

The southernmost point of Prince of Wales Island is on the line of 54° 40' north latitude, and the entrance of Portland Canal is due east from said point about 50 or 60 miles. The Canadian contention is that Behm Canal is meant, because you can only "ascend to the north" from the initial point through that channel. Literally this is true, but the construction disregards the object to which the line is carried by the words "shall ascend to the north along the channel, called Portland Channel." The familiar doctrine that courses and distances will be controlled by monuments does not seem to have been taken into consideration.

Again, it is contended that Portland Canal is not intended, because Portland Canal does not "strike the 56th degree of north latitude," and that Behm Canal does, and was therefore intended. This interpretation is also unwarranted by the language used, for the plain reading shows that the line is the subject, and not the canal. In other words, the line "shall ascend to the north," &c., as far as the point of the Continent where it, the line, strikes the 56th degree of north latitude.

The boundary-line from this point north-westerly to Mount St. Elias, as shown by the official map of British Columbia, is arbitrarily drawn, and seems not only to hold in contempt the language of the description in Article IV before mentioned, but takes no note of the physical facts. The language, it appears to the Committee, can sustain no other interpretation than that "whenever the summit of the mountains which extend in a direction parallel to the coast . . . shall prove to be at a distance of more than 10 marine leagues from the ocean, . . . the limit . . . shall be formed by a line parallel to the windings of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of 10 marine leagues therefrom." How this line, which must follow the summit of the mountains which extend in a direction parallel to the coast, and where no mountains exist within the prescribed 10 marine leagues, must be parallel with the "windings of the coast," can, with uncontrolled licence, sever the heads of the great bays and inlets, spring from shore to shore, and leap across the great arms of these inland waters, the Committee has not yet been able to grasp.

To the words "10 marine leagues from the ocean" is also given the construction that this distance should be measured from the outlying islands. This cannot be sustained, because the point where the line strikes the 56th degree of north latitude at

the head of Portland Canal is about the prescribed distance, and it then follows the windings of the coast of the Continent and not that of the islands.

The Committee is persuaded that this entire interpretation can be safely overthrown, and the contention of the United States established before any impartial Tribunal. An examination of the diplomatic correspondence carried on between the distinguished Representatives of the Russian and British Governments conclusively establishes the intention of both the High Contracting Parties as to this very line. This correspondence was carried on from the cities of St. Petersburg and London for the space of several years, and culminated in the Convention of 1825. At the beginning of these communications the Russian Chancellor directs the Russian Ambassador at London as follows:—

“In order not to cut the Island of Prince of Wales, which, according to that arrangement, should rest with Russia, we would propose to take the southern frontier of our domain to 54° 40' of latitude, and to make it abut on the Continent at the Portland Canal, of which the embouchure into the ocean is off the Island of Prince of Wales, and its origin is in the Continent between the 55th and 56th degrees of latitude.”

This proposition is practically maintained throughout the many negotiations which occurred, and is fairly admitted by the British Plenipotentiary in his final communication to his Government at the time of the execution of said Convention.

As to the disagreement upon the facts. If the reports in the press of British Columbia be true, it is strenuously contended that there exists a range of mountains within the 10 marine leagues limit, and it is stated that the main efforts of the Canadian engineers are directed to the establishment of that range. In this connection, the Committee called upon Mr. Phillip A. Walker, one of the corps of engineers which has been engaged on the part of the United States in surveying the disputed territory, and he informed us a few days since that the result of their labours established, without doubt, that no range of mountains exists.

The output from the resources of Alaska since its purchase by the United States runs into the millions far in excess of its purchase price, and its commerce with the States is now great, and increasing yearly. The Alaskan trade with the city of Seattle in the past year has reached nearly a million dollars, and with the present increase of trade will double within the next year.

The Committee respectfully submits the above as some of the results of its labours, and believes that no efforts should be spared by this Chamber to bring to the aid of our Government all evidence which will enable it to establish our rights over the disputed territory.

The Convention of 1892 between the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland provided for the appointment of Commissioners by the High Contracting Parties “with a view to the ascertainment of the facts and data necessary to the permanent delimitation of the said boundary-line,” &c. To secure such facts and data a coincident or joint survey of the territory adjacent to the boundary-line was agreed upon, and the Commissioners were to make a joint Report to each of the two Governments upon such facts as they were able to agree upon, and to jointly or severally report to each Government such points as they were unable to agree upon. As soon as the Reports shall have been received, then the High Contracting Parties further agree that “they will proceed to consider and establish the boundary-line in question.”

The Committee learns through the press despatches that the Reports provided for by the above Convention have been submitted to the respective Governments and await further action, in pursuance of the terms of the Convention of 1892 and the Supplemental Convention of 1894.

Sincerely hoping that the efforts of the Committee may aid a peaceful and satisfactory solution of the controversy, this Report is herewith respectfully submitted.

(Signed) J. B. METCALFE,  
Chairman of Committee.

*Mr. Squire.*—I trust that early action may be taken upon the Joint Resolution. I do not deem it necessary that it should be referred to any Committee for action, but if it is thought best it may be referred.

Several Senators.—Let it be referred.

*Mr. Squire.*—Very well. I move that the Joint Resolution be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The motion was agreed to.

No. 4.

*Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 20.)*

(No. 9.)

My Lord,

Washington, January 7, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copy of a note which I have received from the Secretary of State, in which he informs me that a small portion of the line running through Passamaquoddy Bay not having been agreed upon between Mr. Mendenhall (the late United States' Commissioner) and the British Commissioner before the supersession of the former, consideration of this remaining disagreement will be continued by Mr. Duffield, the present United States' Commissioner, who will seek an early conference with his British colleague, to the end that a prompt and satisfactory disposal of the matter be arrived at.

I have informed his Excellency the Governor-General of Canada accordingly.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

Inclosure in No. 4.

*Mr. Olney to Sir J. Pauncefote.*

Excellency,

Department of State, Washington, January 6, 1896.

REFERRING to the Department's note of the 25th June last to Lord Gough, announcing that Mr. Mendenhall had been superseded by Mr. W. W. Duffield as United States' Commissioner for the Alaska Boundary Commission, &c., I have the honour to say that a small portion of the line running through Passamaquoddy Bay not having been agreed upon between Mr. Mendenhall and the British Commissioner before the supersession of the former, consideration of this residual disagreement will be continued by Mr. Duffield, who will seek an early conference with his British associate to the end of a prompt and satisfactory disposal of the matter.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) RICHARD OLNEY.

No. 5.

*Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 8.)*

(No. 31.)

My Lord,

Washington, January 24, 1896.

REPORTS having been published in the "Transcript," a respectable Boston paper, in August last, of alleged interviews with Father Barnham, of the Society of Jesuits, and General Duffield, Superintendent of the United States' Coast and Geodetic Survey, reflecting on the action of the Canadian authorities in relation to the Alaska boundary, Viscount Gough referred the extracts to his Excellency the Governor-General of Canada on the 28th August last, and I now have the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copy of an approved Minute of the Canadian Privy Council, containing the observations of the Canadian Ministers upon the statements contained in those extracts.

The statements are said to be erroneous, and therefore to call for no special remark.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

## Inclosure in No. 5.

*Extract from a Report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by the Governor-General on the 8th January, 1896.*

THE Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration a despatch, hereto attached, dated the 28th August, 1895, from Viscount Gough, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Washington, transmitting two extracts from the Boston "Transcript" of the 22nd and 23rd August last respectively, containing reports of interviews with Father Barnham, of the Society of Jesuits, and General Duffield, Superintendent of the United States' Coast and Geodetic Survey, relative to the boundary between Canada and Alaska.

The Minister of the Interior, to whom the said despatch and inclosures were referred, observes that General Duffield, who is the United States' Commissioner under the Convention entered into at Washington in July 1892 in relation to the boundary mentioned, is represented by the "Transcript" to have stated that he had been informed by Mr. W. F. King, Her Majesty's Commissioner, that no Canadian surveying parties were sent into the field during the present year.

The Minister states that he is informed by Mr. King he had a conference with General Duffield shortly after that gentleman's appointment, and that at that conference, which was held at Rochester, in the State of New York, General Duffield was informed that a surveyor was then at work, under instructions from Her Majesty's Commissioner, on the survey with which the joint Commissioners had been intrusted. Mr. King further reports that last spring, previous to sending out this surveying party, he had notified Dr. Mendenhall, then the United States' Commissioner, of his intention to do so.

The Minister submits that it is apparent from the foregoing that the statement attributed by the "Transcript" to General Duffield, as to the information which he had received from Her Majesty's Commissioner, was so attributed in error.

The Minister further observes that the opinions expressed by Father Barnham, as reported in the columns of the "Transcript," if made at all, would appear to have been made entirely at random and from a limited knowledge of the question at issue, and they call for no remarks.

The Committee, on the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior, advise that a certified copy of this Minute be transmitted to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington.

All which is respectfully submitted for your Excellency's approval.

(Signed)

JOHN J. MCGEE,

*Clerk of the Privy Council.*

*Viscount Gough to the Earl of Aberdeen.*

My Lord,

*Newport, R.I., August 28, 1895.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 22nd June last, I have the honour to transmit herewith, as possibly of interest to your Excellency, two extracts from the "Transcript," a respectable paper published in Boston, of the 22nd and 23rd instant respectively, containing reports of interviews with Father Barnham, of the Society of Jesuits, and General Duffield, Superintendent of the United States' Coast and Geodetic Survey, relative to the boundary between Alaska and Canada.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GOUGH.

*Extract from "Transcript," 22nd August.***SEWARD'S ICE CHEST.—GREAT BRITAIN TRYING TO FILCH FROM IT. LAYS CLAIM TO RICH GOLD AND COAL FIELDS. ALSO FINE HARBOURS AND TIMBER LANDS.**

*San Francisco, Cal., August 22.*—In an interview last night, Father Barnham, S.J., who has just returned from Alaska, said, regarding the boundary between British Columbia and Alaska: "England has a surveying party up there now running a new line to suit herself. These engineers are not on a junketing tour to amuse themselves; they are working hard. They have a magnificent equipment, and have already accomplished a great deal. Unless we have gumption we shall lose an immense slice of south-eastern Alaska. They will steal Glacier Bay and some grand harbours. We have not paid enough attention to this question. Alaska, until a few years ago, used to be called Seward's Ice Chest. Little or nothing was known about the country, and the people here did not take interest enough in it to think about it. We are cut off by the General Congress. We have no right representation, and what is needed now is a man who will rise up and bring the question in the full magnitude of its importance before the people.

Arbitration? We always lose in arbitration. We lost in the San Juan question. The sixty-mile limit in the Behring Sea was nonsensical. We lost there too. I suppose the English will decide on a boundary of their own between Alaska and Canada. Then we will howl. Canada will howl too, and there must be arbitration, of course. Now, why do the English make this move at this late day? Since 1841 the boundary was a settled fact. It was never disputed when the territory belonged to Russia, and was known as Russian-America. It is still on all the English maps, which shows that it was accepted by England through all these years, and to ask for arbitration now on a new line is nothing but impertinence. At Forty-Mile Creek, where there has never been trouble of any kind, a detachment of Canadian police was stationed recently, and Father Barnham said he expected serious trouble this coming winter between the American miners and the Canadian officers.

**TREMENDOUS INTERESTS INVOLVED.**

In 1867 the United States purchased Alaska from Russia, paying for it \$7,200,000. England did not then raise a question as to the boundary, and up to 1889, a term of fifty-nine years, forty-two years under Russian ownership and seventeen years under United States' control, the Alaskan boundary was never questioned, but in all maps, charts, and British official matters, this boundary-line was shown and represented, as American maps and official documents still hold it. In 1884, the Dominion of Canada, on its maps, changed the Alaskan boundary-line to suit its own purpose, the British Government recognized Canada's claim, and at the instigation of Her Majesty's Government, the United States, on the 22nd July, 1892, appointed a Commission for the purpose, as set forth in Article 1 of the Convention agreed upon, "Providing for the delimitation of the existing boundary between the United States and Her Majesty's possessions in North America, in respect to such portions of said boundary-line as may not, in fact, have been permanently marked in virtue of Treaties heretofore concluded." The time allowed to complete surveys and submit final reports ended the 28th November, 1894; but final reports are to be submitted by each of the "High Contracting Parties" on the 31st December, 1895. The disputed lands are in the south-eastern division of Alaska, in what is known as the Panhandle of that vast empire. The claim set up by the British Government, in brief, is that instead of Portland Channel, Behm Channel, the first inlet west of Portland Channel was meant; and, starting from this point, the line of demarcation includes an area about 600 miles in length, and of varying widths up to 150 miles, including about a hundred miles of sea-coast, with its harbours and the islands adjacent thereto. The value of the strip is almost inestimable.

Alaska last year in her fish canneries alone did a business of fully 3,000,000 dollars, the greater part of which business is in the disputed Alaskan territory. The untouched forests of this section are greater than any in the United States. Besides this, there are large deposits of copper, iron, coal, and marble. The population is now 35,000, of which number about two-thirds are in this disputed division. The army of men who are working in the interior or main part of Alaska come by steamer to Chilkat, and

thence follow a trail a distance of 40 miles to Forty-Mile Creek, where they build rafts and float down the Yukon River, a distance of 600 miles to the inland gold-fields. If the English claims to territory are made good these headquarters will become their possessions, and the harbours now in American hands will fly the British flag, and she will control the way to the interior of Alaska. The acquisition of the coal-fields of Alaska by England is of far more importance than may be appreciated by the apparently indifferent Americans. To make this matter plainer, it is well to call attention to the fact that the only coal supply station now open to the United States on the Pacific coast is on Puget Sound, while England, through the Dominion of Canada, has vast coal-fields in British Columbia. The United States would also lose the famous Treadwell mining property, the Hayward-Lane property, which is undoubtedly the richest mining property in the world, and the Silver Bow property.

*Extract from "Transcript," August 23.*

**BOUNDARY-LINE IS FIXED.—STORY THAT ENGLAND IS TRYING TO STEAL ALASKA NOT CREDITED.**

*Washington, August 23.*—General Duffield, Superintendent of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, said last night that he placed but little credence in the report that England had a surveying party running a line of her own to determine the boundary between Alaska and British Columbia.

"It was only a few days ago—August 10 to be exact," said General Duffield, "that I met Mr. King, the Canadian Boundary Commissioner, by appointment in Rochester, for the purpose of conferring about this boundary survey and arranging our plans for the future. I know that Mr. King has not been in Alaska during the present year, and he informed me that none of his party was in the field. For that reason I am confident no surveyors are now at work on the line, but even if they were it would make little difference. The boundary-line is fixed by Treaties between this country and Great Britain and between Russia and Great Britain. The work of the surveyors is to definitely mark the lines laid down by those Treaties. We have an engineering party engaged in that labour, and so have the English, and the surveys are being made as rapidly as the appropriations and seasons will permit. When the work is completed a report will be made to the respective Governments. Mr. King and myself will visit the scene of the work in October, but when the survey will be completed is a question that cannot now be answered."

No. 6.

*Sir J. Pouncefote to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)*

(No. 55.)

My Lord,

*Washington, February 13, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 8 of the 7th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit official copies of a joint Resolution granting 75,000 dollars to defray the United States' share of the expenses of the Commission to fix the boundary-line between Canada and Alaska at the 141st meridian of longitude.

The effect of this Resolution, which was passed in the Senate on the 15th January, and in the House of Representatives on the 12th February, is to enable the President to enter into a Convention with Her Majesty's Government, subject to the approval of the Senate, and then to appoint Commissioners to represent the United States in the survey.

I also have the honour to inclose an extract from the "Congressional Record" of the 12th instant, containing a speech by Mr. Pitney, of New Jersey, on the subject of the boundary question at issue.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN POUNCEFOTE.

## Inclosure 1 in No. 6.

54th Congress, 1st Session.—S. R. 39.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

January 17, 1896.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

*Joint Resolution making an Appropriation to defray the Joint Expense of locating the Boundary Line between the Territory of Alaska and the British North American Territory.*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,—

“That in view of the expediency of forthwith negotiating a Convention with Great Britain for marking convenient points upon the 141st meridian of west longitude, where it forms, under existing Treaty provisions, the boundary-line between the territory of Alaska and the British North American territory, and to enable the President to execute the provisions of such Convention without delay when concluded, the sum of 75,000 dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be immediately available, under the direction of the President, to defray the share of the United States in the joint expense of locating said meridian and marking said boundary by an international Commission.”

Passed the Senate the 15th January, 1896.

Attest:

(Signed)

WM. R. COX, *Secretary.*

## Inclosure 2 in No. 6.

*Extract from the “Congressional Record” of February 12, 1896.*

*Mr. Cannon.*—Mr. Speaker, I am directed by the Committee on Appropriations, to whom was referred Senate Joint Resolution (No. 39), making an appropriation of 75,000 dollars to defray the expenses of locating the boundary-line between the territory of Alaska and British North American territory, having considered the same, to report it back and recommend its passage without amendment.

I merely desire to say that, after a full consideration, the Committee was unanimous in recommending the appropriation. I wish to yield a short time to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. Pitney), who is a member of the Committee, touching this matter.

*The Speaker.*—The Clerk will report the Resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:—

“A joint Resolution, making an appropriation to defray the joint expense of locating the boundary-line between the territory of Alaska and the British North American territory.

“Resolved, &c.—That, in view of the expediency of forthwith negotiating a Convention with Great Britain for marking convenient points upon the 141st meridian of west longitude, where it forms, under existing Treaty provisions, the boundary-line between the territory of Alaska and the British North American territory, and to enable the President to execute the provisions of such Convention without delay when concluded, the sum of 75,000 dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be immediately available, under the direction of the President, to defray the share of the United States in the joint expense of locating said meridian and marking said boundary by an international Commission.”

*Mr. Pitney.*—Mr. Speaker, in behalf of the Committee I desire to say only a few  
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words in explanation of the purpose of this joint Resolution, because there has been and is a good deal of confusion in the public mind, and possibly in the minds of some members of this House, as to what is the exact status of the controversy, in so far as it has become a controversy, touching the boundary-line which divides the territory of Alaska from British North America. By a Treaty concluded between this country and Russia in the year 1867, all the Russian North American possessions were ceded to the United States, and the eastern boundary-line of those possessions (now called Alaska) was declared to be the same boundary laid down in the Convention or Treaty concluded between Great Britain and Russia in the year 1825. That boundary-line has two parts, and each of these parts has given rise to something of controversy; but these controversies have not yet reached an unfriendly stage.

By the Treaties just mentioned, the eastern limit of Alaska is described as "commencing from the southernmost point of the island, called Prince of Wales' Island," in latitude  $54^{\circ} 40'$  north, and ascending to the north along the channel called Portland Channel, as far as the point of the continent where it strikes the  $56^{\text{th}}$  degree of north latitude, and from this point following "the summit of the mountains situated parallel to the coast as far as the point of intersection of the  $141^{\text{st}}$  degree of west longitude," and from that point of intersection following the  $141^{\text{st}}$  meridian to the frozen ocean.

But it was further provided—

"That whenever the summit of the mountains which extend in a direction parallel to the coast from the  $56^{\text{th}}$  degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the  $141^{\text{st}}$  degree of west longitude shall prove to be at the distance of more than 10 marine leagues from the ocean, the limit . . . shall be found by a line parallel to the winding of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of 10 marine leagues therefrom."

Now, Mr. Speaker, it has been found that in fact the topography of the country, from the commencement of this eastern boundary-line to the point where it meets the  $141^{\text{st}}$  meridian, is different from what it was supposed to be at the time of the making of the Russo-British Treaty of 1825, and therefore disputes have recently arisen as to the true location of that part of the boundary. In 1834 the Canadian authorities, abandoning the location shown by all published maps for many years, claimed for the first time in an official map that the line at its commencement, instead of ascending the Portland Canal, should ascend an estuary lying some distance farther west, and called Behm Canal. This claim places in dispute a territory which has always been considered a part of the territory of Alaska, and which equals in area the State of Connecticut.

Still later, in the year 1837, a claim has been made by the Canadian map-makers that the remainder of this portion of the boundary ought to be pushed nearer to the ocean than previous maps showed it to be. This claim arises from the fact that whereas the Treaty called for the "summit of the mountains" to be followed from the latitude of  $56^{\circ}$  in a north-westerly direction, subsequent surveys have demonstrated the fact that there is no range of mountains which will answer the description in that clause of the Treaty. But, according to our contention, this makes it necessary to fall back upon the second branch of the description, which declares in effect that in case there shall be no range of mountains within the limit of 10 marine leagues from the coast, extending in a northerly direction from the latitude of  $56^{\circ}$ , the line shall follow the windings of the coast, and be nowhere more than 10 marine leagues distant therefrom. That, in short, is one branch of the controversy.

In 1832 a Convention or Agreement was concluded between the Government of the United States and the Government of Great Britain, which had for its object a joint or coincident topographical survey of the south-easterly territory of Alaska, from the latitude of  $54^{\circ} 40'$  to the point where the  $141^{\text{st}}$  meridian is encountered, in order to ascertain the facts and data necessary to enable us to determine where, according to the spirit and intent of the Treaty, the boundary-line should be located. That joint survey has been completed, and a report was signed by the Commissioners on the 31st day of last December, but the maps have not yet been engraved, and the matter is not in a condition to be laid before Congress. I may say, however, that we are assured by the officials representing the Coast and Geodetic Survey that their surveys have demonstrated the fact that there is no range of mountains such as at

the time the Treaty was concluded between Russia and Great Britain was assumed to exist, and no range of mountains to which the language of the Russian Treaty of 1867 can apply. Therefore, the claim on behalf of the Government of the United States is and must be that the territory of Alaska, that is, the south-easterly portion of it, shall be bounded to the eastward by a line distant 10 marine leagues from the coast, and following the windings of that coast.

*Mr. Knox.*—Does the gentleman mean the coast of the main land or the coast of the islands?

*Mr. Pitney.*—I was coming to that, Mr. Speaker. On the Canadian side of the question two claims are made. In the first place, they claim that while there is no range of mountains distant 10 marine leagues from the coast, or thereabouts, there is a range of mountains very near to the coast of the mainland, and that the line should be run there near the coast, which would leave in British territory a large part of Taku Inlet and a large part of Lynn Canal, two great estuaries which extend into the interior. This would bring the British possessions down very close to the ocean, and, at the same time, the American territory of Alaska would be dismembered, and it would be impossible for us to proceed by land from one part of that territory to the other without the consent of the British authorities. Moreover, the British Government could establish fortifications upon tide water, could run a branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway to Taku Inlet or to Lynn Canal, and could thus control those two great entrances into the interior of the country. The second claim on the part of the Canadians is that the 10 marine leagues, or 30 nautical miles, equivalent to about 35 statute miles, which are to be the limit of the width of this portion of our possessions, should be measured not from the coast of the main continent, but from the outermost edge of the archipelago which fringes the continent. The result of allowing that claim would be to throw the control of all these waterways into British hands.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is not necessary to discuss the matter further to show to the House how great is the importance of this dispute. As yet the matter is in a friendly position between our Government and the authorities of Great Britain, and it is desirable that it should be left in a position of amicable adjustment between the parties.

The second great question between the British authorities on the one side and the Government and people of the United States on the other relates to the true location upon the surface of the earth of the 141st meridian of west longitude, and it is to this branch of the subject that this present Resolution mainly relates. In regard to that meridian no doubt arises from the language of the Treaty. The doubt arises only in attempting to mark upon the earth's surface the location of the meridian. That location is to be ascertained by astronomical survey; not by the ordinary topographical survey, but by observation of the stars, and it is a very expensive operation, and requires a great deal of time.

Now, money has already been spent under the authority of the United States' Government, and some also by the Canadian or British authorities, for the purpose of ascertaining with such degree of certainty as human observation permits where the 141st meridian runs. At some points along the line both the Canadian surveyors and our own have made observations. At one point—at the crossing of Forty-Mile Creek—the two surveys are only about 6 feet apart; in another place—at the Yukon River—they are 618 feet apart. The meridian has been located with this approximate degree of accuracy upon the principal water courses which form the highways by means of which miners and other immigrants enter the country.

It is very desirable, in the opinion of the Department of State, in the opinion of the Senate, who have passed this joint Resolution, and in the opinion of the Committee on Appropriations, who have reported it to the House, that this survey should be promptly completed by duly authorized Commissioners on the part of the Dominion of Canada and duly authorized Commissioners on the part of the Government of the United States; that an agreement should be reached and monuments should be set up at all the principal points along the 141st meridian, in order that settlers and others shall be able to tell whether any particular spot is in the British possessions or is United States' territory. So soon as the principal points may have been ascertained by astronomical survey and monuments erected upon the ground, those points may be connected by lines run by the ordinary methods of triangulation.

This appropriation is called for in order to enable the engineers on the part of the United States to join with those on the part of Canada in completing this survey.

The proposition was made to our Department of State last summer on the part of the Dominion of Canada that we should either join in the expense of a joint survey, or that we should adopt provisionally the results of a survey which had been partially completed by Mr. William Ogilvie in behalf of Canada, and in the event that we did provisionally adopt his survey, we should pay one-half of the expense incurred. It was thought best that we should enter at once into a Convention or Agreement in order to have a definite survey made and agreed to by both parties, and to have the location of the 141st meridian marked by visible monuments. This is desirable, not only with reference to the disputed territory on that meridian, but in order to lead to an amicable arrangement, which, it is hoped, may soon be entered into with regard to the disputed territory along the south-eastern part of the boundary.

*Mr. Loud.*—I desire to ask the gentleman what powers are now vested by law in this Commission?

*Mr. Pitney.*—None, as yet; no Agreement has yet been made; no Commission has yet been appointed.

*Mr. Loud.*—Would not the passage of this Resolution empower that engineering Commission to locate the line, and would it not thus become fixed?

*Mr. Pitney.*—That is the object of the appropriation. The passage of this Resolution, however, does not conclude the Government of the United States in this matter. It simply enables the President to enter into a Convention with Great Britain, subject to the approval of the Senate, and then to appoint Commissioners to represent us in such a joint survey.

*Mr. Loud.*—Then this does not take the matter ultimately out of the hands of Congress?

*Mr. Pitney.*—No; not at all.

*Mr. Cannon.*—I now yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Sayers).

*Mr. Sayers.*—Mr. Speaker, I rise only for the purpose of correcting a rumour that has gone out into the country, and which I have seen printed in some of the newspapers, that the United States' Government, or rather the Coast and Geodetic Survey, has adopted the survey made by the Canadian authorities in regard to the line running south-east of Mount St. Elias. That is not true. There have been parties at work in making that survey—the Canadian party and the American party. These two parties have been broken up into smaller parties. With each Canadian party there has always been a representative of the American Government, and with each American party always a representative of the Canadian Government; and the information we have is that the American parties have made about two-thirds of the survey, and the most important part of it.

*Mr. Pitney.*—Will the gentleman permit a statement? With regard to the topographical survey from the vicinity of Mount St. Elias to the vicinity of the Portland Canal the method adopted has been this: There have been about a dozen American parties in the field, and with each of them there has been a Canadian representative, and there have been ten or a dozen Canadian parties in the field, with each of which there has been an American representative.

*Mr. Sayers.*—Certainly.

*Mr. Pitney.*—Each one of those parties has covered a certain section of territory. The American surveys have in that way covered the whole of the territory from the coast-line to and beyond the 10-marine league limit, and the Canadian surveys have covered the greater part of the same territory, each party having with it, as I have already said, a representative of the other Government.

*Mr. Sayers.*—The American parties have accomplished about two-thirds of the entire topographical survey.

*Mr. Knox.*—Will the gentleman (Mr. Pitney) who last occupied the floor yield for a question?

*Mr. Pitney.*—Certainly.

*Mr. Knox.*—Does this Resolution provide for a resurvey of the line in south-eastern Alaska?

*Mr. Pitney.*—No. The survey of the country in south-eastern Alaska—the topographical survey—has been completed, but the maps have not been engraved, so that they are not available at this time.

*Mr. Knox.*—If that is the true line, whether it be the line of the coast or the continent, or the westerly line of the island, would there be any need of a resurvey?

*Mr. Pitney.*—As I understand your question, no.

*The Speaker.*—The question is on the third reading of the joint Resolution. The joint Resolution was ordered to a third reading, and, being read the third time, was passed.  
On motion of Mr. Cannon, a motion to reconsider the last vote was laid on the table.

## No. 7.

*Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(Received March 21.)

(No. 100.)

My Lord,

Washington, March 13, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 55 of the 13th February and to previous correspondence, relative to the survey of the Alaska boundary, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a note which I addressed to the Secretary of State on the 6th instant, together with a copy of Mr. Olney's reply.

Your Lordship will observe that, for the reasons stated by the Secretary of State, the United States' Government refuse to recognize provisionally the results of the survey actually in progress by Mr. William Ogilvie, the well-known Canadian surveyor.

Mr. Olney makes a proposition regarding the demarcation of the boundary-line, and suggests that a Convention be forthwith concluded between the two Governments on the subject.

I have transmitted a copy of the note to the Governor-General of Canada.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

## Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

*Sir J. Pauncefote to Mr. Olney.*

Sir,

Washington, March 6, 1896.

REFERRING to your note of the 10th ultimo relative to the demarcation of the principal points of the 141st meridian boundary-line between Alaska and Canada, in which you informed me that a measure aiming to facilitate the settlement of the boundary-line in question was pending in Congress, I now have the honour to ask, in view of the fact that Congress has appropriated a sum for this purpose, whether your Government would favourably entertain the proposal contained in my note of the 6th ultimo, viz., the recognition of Mr. Ogilvie's line of demarcation until the commencement of the joint survey.

In the Minute inclosed in my above-mentioned despatch, it was pointed out that it would not be possible to communicate with Mr. Ogilvie before the summer, when a considerable portion of the 141st meridian boundary should already be marked on the ground.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

## Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

*Mr. Olney to Sir J. Pauncefote.*

Excellency,

Department of State, Washington, March 11, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 6th instant in which, referring to my communication of the 11th ultimo relative to the demarcation of the principal points of the 141st meridian boundary-line between Alaska and Her Majesty's dominions, you advert to the approval of a joint Resolution of Congress appropriating a sum for the purpose of such demarcation, and inquire whether this Government would favourably entertain the proposal contained in your prior note of the 6th ultimo, namely, the recognition of Mr. Ogilvie's line of demarcation, until the commencement of the joint survey.

The joint Resolution, approved the 20th February last, of which I inclose a copy

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for your perusal, obviously contemplates the permanent marking of convenient points upon the 141st meridian in virtue of a Convention to that end, and the appropriation is for that purpose, and would not be applicable to the payment of a contributive share by the United States' Government to the recent and pending surveys of Mr. Ogilvie, for temporary convenience, as proposed by you. Moreover, the inconveniences of a provisional demarcation expressly declared to be subject to alteration by a final survey yet to be made jointly by the two parties appears to render such an expedient undesirable if any other equally practical and expeditious be within reach.

I am not at all satisfied that a joint astronomical survey for the purpose of locating anew and by independent observations, convenient points upon the 141st meridian, is necessary or desirable.

So far as the recent and existing surveys on either side have progressed, they exhibit a close coincidence of results. At one point, as I am informed, the difference between Mr. Ogilvie's location and that made by the United States' Coast and Geodetic Survey is only about 6 ft. 7 in. In another point the difference is in the neighbourhood of 500 or 600 feet, and at other points even closer coincidence than this latter is expected, when the comparison of calculations shall have been worked out.

After careful consideration of the subject, I am prepared to make the counter-proposition that, by a new Convention, the two Governments shall agree upon certain points of the 141st meridian at the intersection of the principal streams, locating the same at points midway between the determinations of the Coast and Geodetic Survey and of Mr. Ogilvie, and providing for the junction of the points so located by convenient joint surveys as occasion may require until the entire line shall in time be established.

Such a proposition would supply a permanent line to be deemed for all international purposes coincident with the 141st meridian stipulated under existing Treaties, and would require no further immediate arrangement than the dispatch of a joint surveying party to set up monuments at the points so conventionally defined, with perhaps the survey of a traverse line connecting the monuments on the Yukon and Forty Mile Creek and further south if need be. All this can be accomplished with ease during the coming season, if prompt action be taken to that end.

Should your response be favourable, I will be prepared to consider with you forthwith the terms of a suitable Convention.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) RICHARD OLNEY.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 7.

[PUBLIC RESOLUTION.—No. 16.]

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*Joint Resolution making an Appropriation to defray the joint expense of locating the Boundary Line between the Territory of Alaska and the British North American Territory.*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

That in view of the expediency of forthwith negotiating a Convention with Great Britain for marking convenient points upon the 141st meridian of west longitude, where it forms, under existing Treaty provisions, the boundary-line between the territory of Alaska and the British North American Territory, and to enable the President to execute the provisions of such Convention without delay when concluded, the sum of 75,000 dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be immediately available, under the direction of the President, to defray the share of the United States in the joint expense of locating said meridian and marking said boundary by an international Commission.

Approved, February 20, 1896.

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No. 8.

*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 26.)*

Sir, *Downing Street, March 26, 1896.*  
 WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting the Alaska boundary, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, a copy of a despatch from the Governor-General of Canada forwarding a certified copy of the Report of the Joint Boundary Commission.

The maps annexed to this Report have not been received yet.

I am, &c.  
 (Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

## Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Mr. Chamberlain.*

Sir, *Government House, Ottawa, March 3, 1896.*  
 I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copy of an approved minute of the Privy Council, with copy of the joint Report prepared by the Commissioners appointed under the Convention between Great Britain and the United States of America respecting the boundary between the two countries (Alaska and Passamaquoddy Bay) signed at Washington the 22nd July, 1892.

As Mr. King, the British Commissioner, held his appointment direct from Her Majesty's Government I was under the impression that this joint Report would more properly have been addressed to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; but Mr. King has explained that his instructions from the Foreign Office were to address his reports to the Canadian Government.

I have, &c.  
 (Signed) ABERDEEN.

## Inclosure 2 in No. 8.

*Extract from a Report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by the Governor-General on the 25th February, 1896.*

ON a Report dated 15th February, 1896, from the Minister of the Interior, submitting herewith the joint Report which has been signed by General William Ward Duffield, Superintendent of the United States' Coast and Geodetic Survey (successor to Dr. Thomas C. Mendenhall), and Mr. William Frederick King, B.A., Chief Astronomer of the Department of the Interior of Canada, the Commissioners appointed under Article I of the Convention between the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, concluded at Washington on the 22nd July, 1892, having for its object the joint survey of the territory adjacent to that part of the boundary line of the United States and Canada dividing the territory of Alaska from the Province of British Columbia and the north-west territory of Canada.

The Minister recommends that a certified copy of this Minute and of the said Report be deposited with the plans of survey and other documents of record in the Department of the Interior having relation to the external boundaries of Canada. The maps which should accompany it are stated by Her Majesty's Commissioner to be in course of completion, and will be submitted as soon as possible.

The Minister further recommends that copies of the said Report be laid before the Senate and House of Commons of Canada.

The Committee on the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior advise that your Excellency be moved to forward a certified copy of this Minute and also of the inclosed Report to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

All which is respectfully submitted for your Excellency's approval.

(Signed) JOHN J. MCGEE,  
 Clerk of the Privy Council.

## Inclosure 3 in No. 8.

*Report of Joint Boundary Commissioners.*

THE Undersigned, William Ward Duffield, on behalf of the United States of America, and William Frederick King, on behalf of Her Britannic Majesty, duly appointed Commissioners under and by virtue of the 1st Article of the Convention of the 22nd July, 1892, between the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, have the honour to submit the following joint Report of our proceedings and transactions under the said 1st Article of the Convention, which reads as follows:—

“The High Contracting Parties agree that a coincident or joint survey (as may be found in practice most convenient) shall be made of the territory adjacent to that part of the boundary line of the United States of America and the dominion of Canada dividing the territory of Alaska from the Province of British Columbia and the north-west territory of Canada, from the latitude of 54° 40' north, to the point where the said boundary line encounters the 141st degree of longitude westward from the meridian of Greenwich, by Commissioners to be appointed severally by the High Contracting Parties, with a view to the ascertainment of the facts and data necessary to the permanent delimitation of said boundary line, in accordance with the spirit and intent of the existing Treaties in regard to it between Great Britain and Russia and between the United States and Russia.

“Application will be made without delay to the respective legislative bodies for the appropriations necessary for the prosecution of the survey, and the Commissioners to be appointed by the two Governments shall meet at Ottawa within two months after said appropriation shall have been made, and shall proceed as soon as practicable thereafter to the active discharge of their duties.

“The respective Commissioners shall complete the survey and submit their final Reports thereof within two years from their first meeting.

“The Commissioners shall, so far as they may be able to agree, make a joint Report to each of the two Governments, and they shall also Report, either jointly or severally, to each Government on any points upon which they may be unable to agree.

“Each Government shall pay the expenses of the Commission appointed by it.

“Each Government engages to facilitate in every possible way any operations which, in pursuance of the plan to be agreed upon by the Commissioners, may be conducted within its territory by the Commission of the other.

“The High Contracting Parties agree that, as soon as practicable after the Report, or Reports, of the Commissioners shall have been received, they will proceed to consider and establish the boundary line in question.”

The first meeting of the Commissioners appointed under this Article was held in Ottawa on the 28th day of November, 1892. By the supplementary Convention of the 3rd February, 1894, the time for the completion of the work and the submission by the Commissioners of their joint or separate Reports, which, by the former Convention, expired two years from the date of the first meeting of the Commissioners, that is to say on the 28th November, 1894, was extended to the 31st December, 1895.

The Treaties relating to and defining the international boundary line between Canada and the United States of America in the region in question are the Treaty between Great Britain and Russia, dated 28-16th February, 1825, and the Treaty between the United States and Russia, dated 30th March, 1867.

Our Commission under said Article I of the Convention of 1892, applies only to that portion of the boundary described in these Treaties from the southernmost point of Prince of Wales Island to the 141st meridian.

With a view to the performance of the duty imposed upon the Commissioners under the Convention of ascertaining the facts and data necessary to the permanent delimitation of the boundary line, and under the option allowed them of making either a coincident or joint survey, Dr. Thomas C. Mendenhall, at the time Commissioner for the United States (since replaced by the Undersigned, William Ward Duffield), together with the Undersigned British Commissioner, having considered the large extent of unknown territory involved and the comparatively short time allowed for the survey, determined that it was advisable to make the survey a joint one; that is, to partition among the officers working under them respectively the territory to be surveyed, arranging at the same time that each Commissioner should detail Attachés to accompany the several surveying parties of the other, for the purpose of observing and verifying their work.

The United States' Commissioner undertook to make surveys of as precise a nature as

practicable of the principal water-courses which traverse the coast strip; and the British Commissioner undertook to make a photo-topographical survey of the mountainous regions lying between these various water-courses.

A preliminary trigonometrical survey of the principal deep water passages, including the continental shore line from Portland Canal to Lynn Canal, had already been completed by the United States' Coast and Geodetic Survey, and careful determinations of the geographical positions of Mount St Elias (as hereinafter given) and of various mountain peaks in that region were made by the same organization in 1892, at which time a partial survey of the shore line of Yakuta Bay was also made. This completed work helped to co-ordinate the detached surveys of the various parties sent out by the two Commissioners.

In pursuance of this plan, during the year 1893, the following gentlemen were given parties on behalf of the United States, namely:—

Mr. Dickins, on the Unuk River.  
Mr. Tittmann, on the Stikine River.  
Mr. McMath, on the Taku Inlet.  
Mr. Ogden, on the Taku River.

Their duties were to make surveys of these waterways, and to procure as much information as possible as to the topography of the adjacent regions. Mr. Driscoll accompanied Mr. Ogden as Attaché appointed by the British Commissioner, and Mr. Robertson accompanied Mr. Tittman in a like capacity. Mr. Dickins' survey of the Unuk River was made in conjunction with Mr. Saint Cyr, of the British Commission, who, besides making a traverse of the Unuk River, paid particular attention to the mountainous regions on either side of the river.

On behalf of the British Commission, the following gentlemen were placed under instructions to make topographical surveys as full and complete as their means would allow:—

Mr. Saint Cyr, the Unuk River and the mountainous region on either side of it.  
Mr. Klotz, adjoining him to the west and north-west, towards Bradfield Canal.  
Mr. Talbot, to the south and east of the Stikine.  
Mr. Gibbons, to the west of the Stikine.  
Mr. Brabazon, at Holkham Bay, on the east side of Stephen's Passage.  
Mr. McArthur, at Snettisham Bay, and thence to Taku Inlet and Taku River.  
Mr. Ogilvie, to the north and west of Taku Inlet, and east of Lynn Canal.

The Attachés of the United States' Commissioner accompanying them were as follows:—

Mr. Flemer with Mr. Talbot.  
Mr. Pratt with Mr. Gibbons.  
Mr. Ritter with Mr. Brabazon.  
Mr. Welker with Mr. McArthur.  
Mr. Hodgkins with Mr. Ogilvie.  
Mr. Dickins working with Mr. Saint Cyr, as above stated.

In addition to the above, the United States' Commissioner stationed Mr. Morse at Sitka to make astronomical observations for the determination of chronometric differences of longitude between Sitka as a base station and the observatories established by Mr. Dickins at Burrough's Bay with Dr. Edmonds as observer, by Mr. Tittmann at Fort Wrangell with Mr. Putnam as observer, and by Mr. Ogden at the mouth of the Taku River with Mr. French as observer.

At each of the above stations latitude and longitude were also determined. The United States' steamer "Hassler" was employed throughout the season in making the necessary exchanges of time, the chronometers being in charge of Mr. Lord.

The parties were on the ground, and the work begun in the middle of May; and, the early snow falls rendering mountain work impossible, it was found necessary to retire from the field in September.

During the following year, 1894, the following parties were placed in the field, on behalf of the United States' Commission:—

Mr. Pratt on the Chilkat Inlet and River and on Chilkoot and Taiya Inlets and Taiya River, he being engaged chiefly in triangulation.



Mr. Dickins on Unuk River and Chilkat Inlet.  
 Mr. Flemer on Chilkoot and Taiya Inlets.  
 Mr. Ritter on Chilkat Inlet and River.  
 Mr. McGrath on the coast westward from Yakutat Bay and at Lituya Bay.  
 Mr. Morse at Sitka longitude station.

Latitude and longitude were determined at the observatory at Anchorage Point, Pyramid Harbour, the steamer "Hassler" making the necessary chronometer trips as before.

Mr. Hayford made the observations at Pyramid Harbour and Mr. Page had charge of the chronometers on the "Hassler."

On behalf of the British Commission:—

Mr. Saint Cyr at the head of the Portland Canal and thence to the Chickamin River.

Mr. Klotz around Bradfield Canal.

Mr. Gibbons on the north of Frederick Sound from Horn Cliffs to Port Houghton.

Mr. Oglivie on the east side of Lynn Canal, also on the outer coast beyond Cape Spencer.

Mr. McArthur at the north end of Lynn Canal and later on the outer coast at Lituya Bay.

Mr. Talbot on the west side of Lynn Canal towards Glacier Bay.

Mr. Robertson accompanied Mr. Pratt's party as Attaché for the British Commissioner. Except in this instance, the system of Attachés was discontinued by mutual consent of the Commissioners.

During the winter of 1894-95, a party under Mr. Ogilvie ascended the Taku River for the purpose of gaining additional information as to the region extending thence to the vicinity of White and Taiya Passes, which lead from Lynn Canal to the interior, but on account of tempestuous weather the expedition was obliged to return, having accomplished nothing beyond a traverse survey of part of Taku River.

During the season of 1895, Mr. Brabazon was detailed by the British Commissioner to the region lying between the mouth of the Asek River and Yakutat Bay.

Mr. Welker and Mr. Dickins were sent by the United States' Commissioner to connect the surveys made in former years by the United States' Coast and Geodetic Survey in Portland Canal with those in Revillagigedo Channel, and to determine more accurately the longitude of the stations along the canal.

Mr. Dickins and Mr. Welker were placed in charge of parties in Alaska, and Mr. Morse was stationed at Seattle as Astronomer for the redetermination of the differences of longitude between that point and the observatories at Port Simpson, British Columbia, at Mary Island, Alaska, and at a station at the head of Portland Canal. The observations for latitude and longitude were made by Mr. French at Port Simpson, by Mr. Dickins, at Mary Island, and by Mr. Welker at Lion Point, Portland Canal.

Mr. Young was in charge of the chronometers carried by the steamer "City of Topeka" between Seattle and the stations at Port Simpson and Mary Island.

Comparisons between Port Simpson and Lion Point were effected by the United States' launch "Fuca."

The results of all these surveys are exhibited in the accompanying maps, namely, sheets Nos. 1 to 24, made on a scale of  $\frac{1}{100000}$  with contour lines of elevations 250 feet apart, from the surveys of the British Commission; and in maps Nos. 1 to 12 of the United States' Commission, made on the same scale.

These maps have been agreed to by us, subject to the limitations hereinafter set forth, as correct representations of the topographical features, and have been signed by us to testify thereto. In submitting two sets of maps which cover the same ground, and which, to a large extent, have been prepared independently in the offices of the respective Commissioners at Washington and Ottawa, it is understood that wherever there is a difference between the maps, either from different methods of representing the topography or from discrepancy as to the position of natural features or otherwise, such difference is to be interpreted by reference to the hereinbefore described scheme of partition of the survey work between the respective Commissions; and where the surveys cover the same or nearly the same ground, the maps are to be taken as mutually explanatory, having regard to the conditions under which each survey was made. The continental shore line, from latitude  $54^{\circ} 40'$  to Point Coverden, at the south-westerly entrance to Lynn Canal, having been surveyed by the United States' Coast and Geodetic Survey, the United States' maps

shall, in case of discrepancy, govern as to the shore line; so also from Yakutat Bay to the 141st meridian. But from Point Coverden north-westerly to Yakutat Bay, including Glacier Bay and the other Bays, which, with the exception to the entrance to Lituya Bay, have not been so surveyed, the maps of the British Committee shall govern. The shore line of the islands of the Alaskan archipelago have been mapped according to the surveys of the United States' Coast and Geodetic Survey, wherever such survey has been made; elsewhere the best information available has been used.

To show the topographical features of the country in another way, we herewith submit photographic views, being contact prints from the photographic negatives of the officers of the British Commission, whose work was largely executed as to the detail or "filling in" by means of these views, according to the method known as photo-topography, the framework being laid out by triangulations which are shown in sheets Nos. 25, 26, 27 and 28 of the British Commission. These views will also serve as a permanent record of the field work. Plans of the triangulation executed by the officers of the United States' Commission are submitted herewith on sheet No. 13 of the United States' Commission.

Besides the information contained in the maps, we have to report as to the point of commencement named in the Treaty of 1825, that the latitudes of Capes Muzon and Chacon as determined by the British observers are as follows:—

Cape Muzon, 54° 39' 50".  
Cape Chacon, 54° 41' 25".

As determined by the United States' observers these latitudes are:—

Cape Muzon, 54° 39' 48".  
Cape Chacon, 54° 41' 22".

These results are so nearly alike that there is no practical discrepancy between them.

Also, the summit of Mount St. Elias is by the best determination in latitude 60° 17' 35".10 and longitude 140° 55' 47".32, being 28° 830 nautical miles from the line of coast west of Yakutat Bay, and 2.41 statute miles east of the 141st meridian.

We conceive it unnecessary for us, having prepared maps showing so much detail, to enter into a lengthy description of the topography. It may be well, however, to add some remarks upon the mode of occurrence of timber, since this is not shown on the maps.

Speaking broadly we may say that the average altitude of the timber line between Burrough's Bay and Lynn Canal is 2,500 feet, being a little higher in the south and a little lower in the north. Timber line is primarily a matter of heat, so that altitude and latitude have similar effect. However, in a country of which so much has but recently been uncovered from glaciers, timber line is affected by another factor, and that is the presence of soil for trees to take root. As the foot of a mountain is first exposed, the forest starts there, and in time, as exposure and consequent disintegration take place, creeps upward. Now there are many points in the area above referred to where this process of forest creeping has not reached the limit set by climatic conditions, and hence we find timber lines near each other, but varying in altitude by hundreds of feet. This is most noticeable on the west side of Lynn Canal. Naturally we would expect the timber line in the south to be higher than in the north, but as a matter of fact it is the reverse there, being scarcely 2,000 feet for the former, and nearly 3,000 feet for the latter. In general, the timber line on the east side of Lynn Canal is somewhat higher than on the west side. Around Juneau, the timber line does not reach the 2,000 feet limit. Between the entrance of Glacier Bay across Dundas and Taylor Bays and Cape Spencer the timber line may be put at 2,000 feet above the sea. In Glacier Bay, northward from the entrance, the timber line rapidly descends, and in the northern part the forest practically disappears altogether. In fact, along many of the smaller bays there, no wood whatever is found. This phenomenon is plainly indicative of the recent recession of the vast complex of glaciers. On the outside, between Lituya Bay and Cape Spencer, the line is barely 2,000 feet, while in Yakutat Bay it is 1,500 feet. Most of the mountains between Yakutat Bay and Lituya Bay are not timbered at all, but this is probably due—up to 2,000 feet—to the fact already stated, *i.e.*, that the recession of the glaciers is too recent to admit of the necessary disintegration for vegetation to spring up, as well as to the effect upon the temperature of the nearness of the existing glaciers.

The altitude of the timber line at various points is as follows :—

	Maximum.	Average.
	Fect.	Fect.
Portland Canal .. .. .	2,600	2,500
Unuk River .. .. .	2,900	2,600
Burrough's Bay .. .. .	2,800	2,500
Bradfield's Canal .. .. .	2,700	2,500
South of Stikine .. .. .	2,700	2,500
North of Stikine .. .. .	..	2,500
Thomas Bay .. .. .	..	2,500
Endicott Arm .. .. .	2,500	2,500
Saettisham Bay .. .. .	2,700	2,400
Taku Inlet .. .. .	..	2,200
East side Lynn Canal .. .. .	2,900	2,500
Head of Lynn Canal .. .. .	3,000	2,500
West side of Lynn Canal .. .. .	2,400	2,000
Outside, west of Cape Spencer .. .. .	1,500	..

It is understood and agreed that in signing this joint Report and signing and accepting the maps they have submitted, it is not therefore affirmed or admitted by the Commissioners that there is authority for the application of the names used to designate the various places, mountains, bays, channels, islands, &c.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands at Albany, New York, this 31st day of December, 1895.

(Signed) W. W. DUFFIELD,  
*United States' Commissioner.*  
W. F. KING,  
*Her Majesty's Commissioner.*

The Clerk of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, certifies that the joint Report of William Ward Duffield, United States' Commissioner, and William Frederick King, Her Majesty's Commissioner duly appointed to ascertain the facts and data necessary to the permanent delimitation, of the boundary-line between the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada dividing the territory of Alaska from the Province of British Columbia, was submitted to his Excellency the Governor-General in Council on the 25th February, 1896, and that the above is a true copy thereof.

(Signed) JOHN J. MCGEE,  
*Clerk of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada.*

February 25, 1896.

No. 9.

*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, March 26, 1896.*

WITH reference to my letter of the 12th instant respecting the Alaska Boundary Survey, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Sir Julian Pauncefote, inclosing copies of the note which he addressed to the Secretary of State and of the reply which he has received.\*

Lord Salisbury would be glad to learn what answer Mr. Secretary Chamberlain would wish to be returned to the proposal of the United States' Government for fixing a permanent line which would be deemed to coincide with the 141st meridian.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

\* See No. 7.

No. 10.

*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 30.)*

Sir, *Downing Street, March 28, 1896.*  
 IN reply to your letter of the 26th instant respecting the boundary of Alaska to the north of Mount Elias, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to state, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, that he thinks the question of accepting the proposal of the United States' Government is one which should be left mainly to the Government of Canada, and he has therefore sent the inclosed telegram to the Governor-General asking for the views of his Ministers on the question, and desiring him to communicate them also direct to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington.

I am, &c.  
 (Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

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 Inclosure in No. 10.
*Mr. Chamberlain to the Earl of Aberdeen.*

(Telegraphic.) *Downing Street, March 28, 1896, 1:30 P.M.*  
 WHAT are views of your Ministers as to proposal contained in Olney's despatch of 11th March, meridian boundary Alaska; also inform Pauncefote direct.

No. 11.

*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 21.)*

Sir, *Downing Street, May 21, 1896.*  
 WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting the Alaska boundary, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquess of Salisbury, a copy of a note from the Intelligence Department of the War Office, suggesting that the Joint Commission should be instructed to consider and report whether a convenient natural boundary could not be found in place of the 141st meridian.

Mr. Chamberlain is not disposed to favour a proposal for opening up this part of the boundary question, and he desires me to inclose the draft of a despatch which, if Lord Salisbury concurs, he proposes to address to the Governor-General on the subject.

I am, &c.  
 (Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

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 Inclosure 1 in No. 11.
*Intelligence Department to Colonial Office.*

THE Director of Military Intelligence presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, and, with reference to the latter part of the Foreign Office despatch of the 26th March last inclosed in the papers recently forwarded from the Colonial Office, begs to observe that the conclusion of the Convention proposed by the United States for marking the exact boundary of Alaska along the 141st degree of west longitude appears to be desirable.

The Director of Military Intelligence would suggest that it may be advisable to instruct the Joint Commission to consider and report whether for practical purposes a more convenient boundary than the straight line of the 141st meridian might not be found by following great natural features in the vicinity of that meridian, such as

mountain crests and river valleys, in such a manner as to assign to the contracting parties territories of approximately equivalent extent or value on either side of the line.

*Intelligence Division,*  
18, *Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.,*  
*April 30, 1896.*

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Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

*Draft of Despatch to the Earl of Aberdeen.*

(Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Downing Street, May , 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, to be laid before your Ministers, a copy of a note from the Intelligence Department of the War Office, suggesting that the Alaska Boundary Commission should be directed to consider and report whether for practical purposes a more convenient boundary than the 141st meridian might not be found by following great natural features in the vicinity of that meridian in such a manner as to assign to the contracting parties territories of approximately equivalent value on either side of the line.

The matter is mainly one for your Ministers to decide, but I fear that any attempt to fix a natural boundary instead of the meridian line assigned by the Treaty would indefinitely postpone a settlement of the question.

The Commissioners might, however, be authorized, if your Ministers and the Government of the United States think it desirable, to recommend jointly any suitable deviations which might suggest themselves to them in the course of the survey.

I have, &c.

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No. 12.

*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 27, 1896.*

I LAID before the Marquess of Salisbury your letter of the 21st instant respecting the boundary between the Dominion of Canada and Alaska.

His Lordship concurs in the terms of the despatch which Mr. Secretary Chamberlain proposes to address to the Governor-General of Canada, suggesting that the Commissioners might be authorized, if it is thought desirable, to recommend any suitable deviations from the line of the 141st meridian in order to make the boundary follow the natural features of the country.

I am, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

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No. 13.

*Sir J. Pouncefote to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)*

(No. 299.)

My Lord,

*Washington, October 25, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 100 of the 13th March last, and your Lordship's despatch No. 94 of the 1st April, respecting the proposal made by the United States that the two Governments should, by a new Convention, agree upon certain points of the 141st meridian for the demarcation of the Alaska boundary, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Minute, approved by the Governor-General of Canada on the 28th ultimo, intimating the concurrence of the Dominion Government in the course suggested by the United States' Government.

I have this day addressed a note to the Secretary of State informing him of the above. A copy of my note is inclosed herewith.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

## Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

*Extract from a Report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by the Governor-General on the 28th September, 1896.*

THE Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration a despatch hereto attached, dated the 29th July, 1896, from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington, inquiring whether any decision has been reached by the Government of Canada on the question of accepting the proposal of the Government of the United States with regard to the joint survey and demarcation of the 141st meridian of longitude, which by Treaty forms a portion of the boundary between Canada and the United States' territory of Alaska.

The acting Minister of the Interior, to whom the despatch was referred, reports as follows:—

That the proposal above referred to is set forth in a letter from the Honourable Richard Olney, Secretary of State of the United States, to Her Majesty's Ambassador, dated the 11th March, 1896, and is to the effect that the two Governments shall, by a new Convention, agree upon certain points of the 141st meridian at the intersection of the principal streams, locating the same at points midway between the determinations of the coast and geodetic survey and of Mr. Ogilvie, and providing for the junction of the points so located by convenient joint surveys as occasion may require until the entire line shall in time be established. The points referred to as having been established by both the coast and geodetic survey and Mr. Ogilvie are the inter-sections of the meridian with the Yukon River and Forty Mile Creek.

The Minister further states that in April 1896 the Honourable T. Mayne Daly, then Minister of the Interior, recommended to your Excellency in Council the acceptance of Mr. Olney's proposal. Parliament being at the time in Session, press of other matters prevented action at that time, and in May the recommendation was referred back to Mr. Daly's successor in office, the Honourable H. J. Macdonald, who concurred in the principle of the recommendation, but the approach of the general elections, and afterwards the change of Government, has since further deferred action upon the matter.

The Minister submits that in his judgment also Mr. Olney's proposal affords the readiest solution of the question, and one that should be satisfactory to both nations, and he recommends that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington be informed that this Government is prepared to join with the Government of the United States in a survey of the 141st meridian in accordance with Mr. Olney's proposal, the work to commence as early as possible in 1897, and to be conducted by joint surveys as occasion may require until the entire line shall be established.

The Committee, on the recommendation of the Acting Minister of the Interior, advise that your Excellency be moved to inform Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies that this Government has substantially accepted Mr. Olney's proposal, and that communication has been opened directly with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington; and further that, although from the severity of the climate in that region the actual joint survey probably cannot be begun until next spring, this Government proposes to ask Parliament at the present Session for a sufficient sum to enable the survey to be commenced whenever the season or the arrangements between the two Governments render it advisable.

All which is respectfully submitted for your Excellency's approval.

(Signed) JOHN J. MCGEE,

*Clerk of the Privy Council.*

Annex (A).

*Sir J. Pouncefote to the Earl of Aberdeen.*

(No. 59.)

My Lord,

*Washington, July 29, 1896.*

IN my despatch No. 28 of the 13th March last, I had the honour to transmit to your Excellency copy of a note dated the 11th March, from the United States' Secretary of State, in which he made a proposal for the settlement of that portion of the Canadian and Alaskan boundary which runs along the 141st meridian.

Shortly after the date of my above despatch I was informed by Her Majesty's

Government that Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies had, on the 28th March last, consulted the Canadian Government by telegraph with the request that the views of your Excellency's Ministers should be communicated directly to me.

Not having yet received any communication from your Excellency on the subject, I venture to ask whether any decision has been arrived at on the question of accepting the proposal of the United States' Government.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

*Sir J. Pauncefote to Mr. Olney.*

Sir,

*Washington, October 25, 1896.*

I REFERRED to the Governor-General of Canada your note of the 11th March last, proposing that the two Governments should, by a new Convention, agree upon certain points of the 141st meridian at the intersection of the principal streams, locating the same at points midway between the determinations of the coast and geodetic survey and of Mr. Ogilvie, and providing for the junction of the points so located by convenient joint surveys as occasion may require, until the entire line shall in time be established.

I have now the honour to inform you that I am in receipt of a despatch from the Deputy Governor of Canada, stating that the Canadian Government are prepared to join with the Government of the United States in a survey of the 141st meridian, in accordance with the proposal made in your above-mentioned note.

The Canadian Government propose that work should commence as early as possible in 1897, and be continued thereafter as occasion may require, until the entire line be established.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

